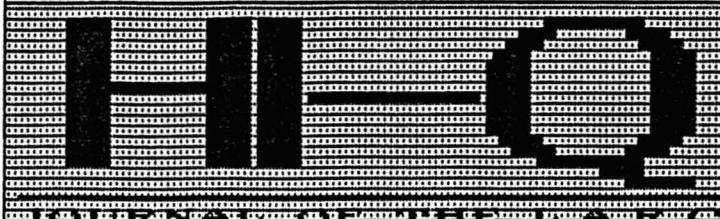


JANUARY 1990

AMATEUR RADIO IN THUNDER BAY - ONTARIO

EDITED BY E.R.  
BAUMANN VE3SNH

WRONG ADDRESS?  
SUBSCRIPTION  
PROBLEMS?  
CALL  
(807) 622-1216



NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 8, 1990  
CONFEDERATION COLLEGE  
(MCINTYRE BUILDING)  
ROOM 245  
1930 HOURS

EVERYONE WELCOME!

FROM THE D.O.C. . . .

There are two new amateur call signs around town. Cheryl Wright recently completed the amateur exam, and is now the proud owner of the call "VE3PAC"; it is understood a new two meter hand-held was the prize for the accomplishment from spouse Don, VE3CAP. Notice anything unusual?

A re-entry to the amateur community, Mike Freutel, ex VE3BWN, decided to get back into the operational mode by becoming "VEE3EEA", recently. Understand he has an HW101, plans to put up a dipole and polish up his CW a bit.

Latest word is that re-structuring of the amateur service is proceeding on schedule, and implementation is still scheduled for September of 1990. Hopefully, we will begin to see some of the details early in the new year.

By the time this goes to press and gets printed, the Holidays will be a thing of the past. We will be in a New Year, a New Decade, and beginning the countdown toward a New Century. Hopefully everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday, and you are having fun with any new toys that came your way.

73 Mike....VE3ZG

INFO Magazine (#29 Nov/Dec) reports the development of new thin film batteries made from a solid conducting polymer electrolyte. They feature five times greater power storage capacity than current batteries, almost infinitely rechargeable, and manufactured in plastic sheets. Apparently they are less expensive to make than conventional cells. Is the case of your next H going to be the battery?

FROM THE D.O.C. . . .

HAPPY NEW YEAR ! I hope you survived the festivities without too many hangovers hihi. My holidays were quiet, yet all to short.

Time is growing closer to the JEEP 500 snowmobile race. Skip VE3BBS is still looking for volunteers. Remember, that even if you are NOT licenced you can still help out, and are quite welcome to do so. This is one of our biggest events and it always proves to be a worthwhile exercise. Quite a bit of work is done by the volunteers and they should be commended for their dedication.

Speaking of dedication ... a big THANK YOU must go out again to Lindo VE3NHX and Erik VE3EBL for their work in restoring VE3YQT which was down New Years Eve and New Years Day until they went up the hill on very short notice. Apparently there was a problem with the transmitter exciter board.

As you may have noticed VE3TBR is operating a bit out of the norm lately as a new receiver was installed by Lindo and myself. As of this writing the autopatch is experiencing difficulty but should be fixed before the meeting. There is still additional work to be done to TBR, like a new transmitter, 12 volt DC operation, and general cleanup as Lindo and I go along.

For this month's presentation I will be demonstrating the latest version available of the DIGICOM>64 packet TNC emulator. I presently use the VHF version but may have the HF/VHF version ready for the meeting. Also, as a Christmas present, Gwen VE3TRE gave me a pencil VOM from Radio Shack and I will demo that as well.

Thank you to VE3AJ..DOM..EFC..NHX..and OTC for their presentations at the last months meeting. It was an added bonus to those who attended and was enjoyed by all. A presentation or two will be attempted from now on as to add variety and life to the regular meetings.

With all the days off and other things on my mind I hope I didn't forget anything important to mention. With that I wish you all a prosperous 1990 and may you enjoy the wonderful hobby of amateur radio.

73 Glenn VE3JAU  
475-3516  
145.810 packet

February 8th - General meeting at Confederation College, McIntyre Building

SATURDAY MORNINGS - breakfast meet at the Blue Parrot around 10:00 a.m.

February 17th - ANNUAL DINNER MEETING, 1800 hours - Mekong River Restaurant 965 Cobalt Crescent (across from the Husky Truck Stop), the Chinese Buffet is \$7.95 per person, or you can order from the regular menu. Call Glenn VE3JAU to reserve your spot.

February 3rd - JEEP 500 International Snowmobile Race, starts at Old Fort William, contact Skip for details.

Executive meetings are held Wednesdays, 8 days prior to the general meeting, every month

## IN CASE YOU MISSED THE MEETING:

The last meeting of the general membership of the LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB was held last December 14th, 1989, at 2005 hours at Confederation College.

Bruce Andrews, race co-ordinator for the JEEP 500 attended and gave us the details for the race. This year the race will be held on February 3rd, 1990, at starts at OLD FORT WILLIAM. Skip VE3BBS is the communications organizer and if you want to help out get in touch with him. Some packet links are going to be attempted to relay race information, and communication checks are going to be made later in the month. Contact Skip or Glenn to take part in those.

After coffee, homebrew QRP equipment were demonstrated by VE3EPC, VE3NHX, VE3DOM, and VE3XJ. A totally mobile packet station was set up and operated by visiting guest ??? VE3OTC.

Glenn reported that he and VE3NHX have been working on repeater TBR with good results.

The new ham on the block, Cheryl Wright VE3PAC was welcomed.

VE3WCT reported that the new repeater in Grand Marais was operating extremely well.

Blaze orange vests, great for events, were found at Kountry Korners for 3.98 + tax.

This years Dinner Meeting will be held on Saturday February 17th, at the Mekong River Restaurant at 1800 hours.

WE NEED SOME MORE INPUT TO THE HI-Q

The meeting was closed by Nestor the Great VE3NPS and seconded by Mike "You Better Be Good" VE3ZG

## phL's DICTIONARY

**ZENER DIODE:** A voltage limiting semiconductor diode designed to break over and conduct at a certain voltage. This is the normal forward conduction of a diode and is also characteristic of a zener diode which avalanche into conduction when breakdown (backward) voltage is exceeded.

**QUENCHER:** A self quenching oscillator in which the suppression occurs in the grid circuit.

**PARAMETRIC MODULATOR:** A modulator that utilizes the variations in the reactance parameter of an energy storing element to produce modulation. (also the weapon utilized by the martians on Day...Jenny...Ed).

**Parallel - T - Oscillator:** An AC sine wave oscillator which provides phase inversion at one discrete frequency and is connected so that positive feedback results only when phase inversion occurs.

**MICHAEL'S EQUATIONS:** Fundamental equations developed by J.C. Maxwell for expressing radiation mathematically and describing the condition at any point under the influence of varying electric and magnetic fields. (How can you explain Maxwell's Demons ??? Ed)

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

Several years ago, I made a decision to no longer be a member of the L.A.R.C. However, rather than leave Amateur Radio altogether, I have followed other interests in the hobby, and found this avenue very much to my liking. I have remained in contact with other local amateurs, some club members, others who, like I, have chosen not to remain members. Enough of that - that is not what this letter is about.

A few months ago, some members of the club decided to become active on VHF Packet radio, one of the areas where I have remained active for the past several years. When the first arrivals appeared, the first thing they did was to turn on their beacons to announce their arrival, which I personally consider to be in poor taste.

The reason I do not encourage the use of beacons is simple - they cause problems. I operate(d) a Packet Bulletin Board System (PBBS), along with a digipeater, allowing access to the Calumet, Michigan digipeater. My station consists of a VHF radio running 25 watts, 2 - 14 element Yagi gain VHF antennas at 85 feet, fed with low loss coax. Despite my best efforts to improve my station's capabilities, the path across the lake is marginal at times. Most of the time the signal is S9 or better, but frequently we do encounter weaker signals.

When stations locally turn on their beacons, they cannot hear the much weaker Calumet station, and as a result, cause packet collisions, and the signal from across the lake to not be heard here. If two locals are carrying on a QSO, and a third station is attempting a connect across the lake, it is only a matter of time before the path across the lake is unusable. This point has been shown time and again to be the case. Beacons, however infrequent, also tend to have the same effect. If several stations have their beacons turned on, the problem is compounded. For this reason I asked those stations that were running beacons to please discontinue their use due to their disruptive nature.

The response that I received was interesting. One station quickly complied (thank you Erik), but the other stations seemed to be offended at the suggestion that he not run his beacons, and they continued. To make matters worse, each new club member that arrived also announced their arrival on the scene by turning on their beacon as well. By all appearances, it seemed that there was a concerted effort by club members to beacon us to death, especially when the president and others

had been asked to discontinue the practice. In my opinion, beacons serve no useful purpose, and quite the contrary, can have a very detrimental impact on packet communications.

As I tried to explain my case to you, several interesting things were said, most of which I will not repeat here. However, to make a long story short, you seemed to feel that I have discriminated against the club, and its members by asking that they not turn their beacons on. Your response to my request is what I must consider to be a personal attack upon myself, which is certainly not called for, given the circumstances. Repeated messages from myself, and other amateurs also requesting the beaconing to discontinue were met with increased aggression on your part (*I have no other words to express your behavior*).

If this were not bad enough, you had the gall to accuse a new amateur of being brainwashed into not participating in club activities. (Copies of this message from you are available for those who wish to view it). This, from the president? WOW! Do you really claim to be protecting the best interest of the L.A.R.C. with such statements? I certainly hope not, and fortunately you seem to alone in your opinions in this regard.

After seeing this message, I decided to prove my point about the use of beacons, and turned mine on in an effort to bring an end to difficulties. It ran for a period of three days, at ten second intervals. This is hardly what I would consider to be /good behavior/, but the point had to be made, since there were no alternatives left, and you were always quick to jump on other amateurs for no apparent reason. The results were interesting. Since I turned my beacon off, packet has remained quiet. No more beacons, and very little activity of any kind. However, I found an interesting public message left that I would like to share with my fellow amateurs that you left for public viewing.

VE3DOM>VE3CX: Slot: 6 To: VE3JAU                   THANK YOU

VE3DOM>VE3CX: Thanks very much Dave for leaving your station on despite someones little temper tantrum... I thought you were off completely as thought i would try and connect to you just in case you left ur station on as shut the digi off ...heres my answer...I wonder if you have the nice little command *RWOT* that blocks out certain callsigns...thats what is neat abt packet...very hard to interfere with a QSO...WCT as myself talked for an hour through the mayhem...maybe one day he will smarten up, grow up, or just crack as have to get the white jacket out...in the meantime just hang tough...hope to cu at the meeting Thurs as i will be showing some of the nice features of the Digicom>64...73 as good packetting...Glenn

This is just a sample of the type of messages that you have left on the packet in recent months, and I feel that your fellow club members should be made aware of your actions. Hardly what I would consider to be in good taste and not a very good way to promote harmony on the amateur bands.

Now that I have said my piece, I would like to make a request of you. Please stop your remarks, as they too are having a harmful effect on packet communications. At last count the damages include the discontinuation of my Packet BBS, my station being off the air for weeks at a time (prior to your attack on me it had been on the air continuously for the last several years) and a lot of discontent among the local amateur ranks. I do not appreciate swing public comments from you whose only purpose seems to be to cause ill will to your fellow amateur. To make matters even more intolerable, you also seem to be on the offense against other non club members as well.

I would also like to suggest a resolution to the difficulties. Please note that it is only a suggestion, as I cannot tell you how to operate your station any more than you can tell me how to operate mine. I wish to make this point quite clear so that there is no misunderstanding - **IT IS ONLY A SUGGESTION**. Please consider the use of the next available packet frequency (i.e. 145.030) for the use of long packet QSO's and for beaconing. There is no activity on that frequency at this time, and beacons would not have the same harmful effect as they do on 145.010 MHz.

Perhaps if a digipeater and mailbox were made available on that frequency it would help encourage better use of both frequencies... 145.010 for connects across the lake and 145.030 for local activity. I do not wish to suggest that you are being run off 145.010, but the situation has become intolerable. As I pointed out, beacons cause problems, and since you are determined to run your beacon, with no consideration of the damage you are causing, perhaps a different frequency for beacons would be in order. This way, you can beacon to your hearts content and no one would be overly concerned about it. I see no other resolution to the problems you seem intent on causing on the bands, and by all appearances, you have no better suggestions either.

**TO THE REST OF THE LARC MEMBERSHIP:** I apologize for taking up space in your publication in order to air my problems, but when the club president IS the problem, where else can one go, especially when he is quick to put on the hat as club president when he is making his personal attacks upon others. The problems can be easily resolved through a bit of co-operation and some understanding of opposing viewpoints, something which he has shown himself incapable of. Normally things are pretty quiet on 145.010 and only since the arrival of the president have the problems started. It is also interesting to note that he is the only one who seems to be continually on the offensive. Most other stations have shown good manners, and turned their beacons off in response to requests from other users.

This will be my one, and only, public comment on this matter, as I feel the point has been made. Beacons cause problems, and the best way to solve the problem is to not have your beacon on. In the end, is this such an unreasonable request? I hope not, but only time will tell.

Tom - VE3CX

Firstly, my apologies, again, for the delays in publication. Between waiting for material, labels, and stamps, not to mention a new toy in the shack and a kid home with chicken pox it's a wonder it got out at all.

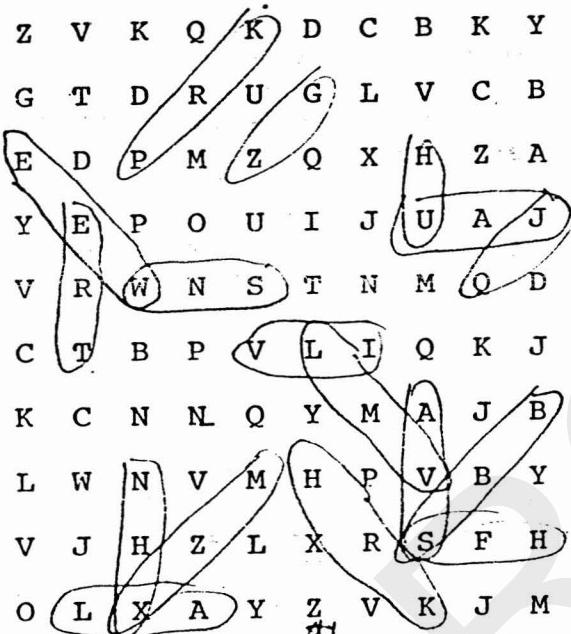
**GLASNOST** It was with some trepidation that I printed Tom's letter in its entirety. Mostly because it deals with his difficulties with another individual, and not the club per se, and I believe those matters should be settled privately. However, it raises the problem of congestion and interference on a frequency that should be resolved with the consultation of all concerned amateurs and would-be amateurs. Tom has made a suggestion which we can consider, or perhaps you have a better idea. The time to speak up (write up?) is now. Your comments and suggestions are welcome *irregardless of your club affiliation or status as an amateur*. As for their personal problem, both Tom and Glenn are gentlemen and I hope that they solve it amicably. See you at the Blue Parrot (Tim VE3HCT and myself are usually there between 0930 and 1000). 73' Lakehead Amateur Radio Club History Project

Ed VE3SNW - Hi-Q Editor

LARC

WORD SEARCH

JANUARY 1990



- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1. EEW  | 11. KRZ |
| 2. BBS  | 12. JAB |
| 3. BCD  | 13. KRH |
| 4. AXL  | 14. HFS |
| 5. AVS  | 15. HU  |
| 6. JAU  | 16. ZG  |
| 7. MZX  | 17. SNW |
| 8. TRE  | 18. JQ  |
| 9. LMV  | 19. ILV |
| 10. NHX | 20. KRP |

Show'd you do, eh?

LISTENING INN

de VE3AVS/SWC

The HF amateur frequency allocations make up only a very small part of the overall HF spectrum between 1.6 and 30MHz. What lies out there on all those other frequencies? Most of us have listened from time to time, either on a general coverage receiver or on the receiver portion of a transceiver.

This column will share some of my listening experiences over the past little while. Maybe you'll find it interesting, maybe not. Either way, a little feedback to your editor would help us all.

I guess I've come full circle.....avid SWL in my youth (8-tube Stromberg Carlson!), then the ham ticket, then professional radio operator, followed by six years on a DOT monitoring station (oh those lovely RACAL receivers), and now back again to being a snoop.



Everybody likes to talk about the weather....so why not be well informed? Around the globe are civilian and military organizations who transmit (on USB) up-to-the minute weather information. These transmissions are scheduled round the clock for use by airlines and pilots.

Basically, broadcast is the "actual" weather at a given time, and/or the "forecasted" weather during the next 12 hours. You will hear details such as cloud cover, wind direction and strength, precipitation (if any), and of course the temperature.

North American and Caribbean area weather is sent from Gander, Newfoundland and New York on these shared frequencies: 3485, 6604, 10051 and 13270 kHz (these are in the aeronautical bands). Because the frequencies are shared, transmission schedules are very tight. Gander covers Canadian weather including Sondrestrom, Greenland, while New York sends the East Coast and Caribbean weather.

Rather than use up a lot of space, here is just a sampling of Gander's schedule. "H" means on the hour followed by minutes past the hour. The schedule then is an hourly one. At H+20, the forecast is given for Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa along with actual weather at these locations and Gander, Goose Bay and Halifax. At H + 25, listen for the Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary forecasts along with actual weather at Sydney, Iqaluit, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Sondrestrom.

Interested in the sunny south? Well, tune in New York at H + 15 for the forecast for Bermuda and Miami, along with the actual weather at those places plus Nassau, Freeport, Tampa and West Palm Beach.

If it's the European weather you are interested in, give a listen to Shannon, Ireland on 3413 (night only), 8957, 5640 or 13264 (day only) kHz. A sample schedule shows at H + 15 the forecast is given for Madrid, Lisbon and Paris, along with the actual weather for these places plus Lyons, France and Santa Maria, Azores. Remember, these schedules are hourly, so if you tune in at H +00 and listen for one hour you will learn the entire schedule.

Finally, the Canadian military have their own weather schedules, with USB broadcasts from Edmonton, Trenton and St. John's easily heard at most times of the day. The format is similar to the civilian broadcasts except they naturally cover the Canadian scene more extensively. The schedules are as follows:

EDMONTON at H + 20 on 15035 (1200-2300Z), 6753 (2300-1200Z)

TRENTON at H + 30 on 15035 (1000-0100Z) and 6753 (2300-1200Z)

ST. JOHN'S at H + 40 on 15035 (1200-2300Z) and hourly on 6753.

For a listening treat, try picking up the Canadian Military at Lahr, West Germany on 13231 (0800-2000Z) and 5690 (2000-0800Z). They are not well heard since the transmissions are directed to European listeners.

That's it for this month... 73 de

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club History Project

VE3AVS/SWC